

richest and most powerful country on Earth, we have to have the ability to provide clean water to our citizens. We have to be able to lead healthy lives, and that certainly includes guaranteeing a clean water supply.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to support the PFAS Action Act, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY BARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very distinguished American and longtime public servant of the people of Southeastern North Carolina as well as the United States Congress.

Billy Barker has served this institution for 24 years, 18 years for former Congressman Mike McIntyre and 6 years with me as agriculture field director.

He also served a number of years for North Carolina's longtime Commissioner of Agriculture, the late Jim Graham. Following more than three decades of serving the citizens of North Carolina, Billy recently retired from his work in public service.

Billy was one of my first hires after I was elected to Congress in 2014. He is a great friend who has been an incredibly valuable source of information for me and many others. The contributions he has made to the agriculture community and our farm families cannot be measured. Sometimes it was help on a pressing issue with USDA; other times, it was just a friendly visit to talk local scuttlebutt and take a break from the stresses on the farm.

It is no exaggeration to say that North Carolina's farm economy wouldn't look the same without Billy's hard work and influence. Through numerous hurricanes and other storms, the COVID-19 pandemic, and every other challenge, Billy Barker has been a constant presence on the ground, providing our farm families and rural communities a steady hand to guide them through recovery and ensuring they have the resources they need.

Without question, the citizens of North Carolina are better off for his service. I wish him a well-deserved retirement and a relaxing and rewarding next chapter of life. I am grateful for his service to the State, and I am proud to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO BOB SUTTER, CEO OF NORTH CAROLINA PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my longtime friend, Bob Sutter, who will be retiring after serving 28 years as the CEO of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association.

Prior to his lifelong career in agriculture, Bob honorably served his country for 2 years in the U.S. Navy

and 5 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve. From there, he worked for the USDA Farm Service Agency, and then later took the helm of the North Carolina Peanut Growers Association as its CEO in 1993.

Bob has made countless contributions to the North Carolina agriculture community, everything from the formation of the National Peanut Board, educating the public on health benefits of peanuts, and advocating for research to improve yields. He leaves behind a successful legacy of helping peanut farmers and their families establish and maintain successful farms that support our Nation's abundant food supply.

Bob has also been a leading voice for North Carolina producers when it comes to developing strong national farm policy. His advocacy in the halls of Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government, as well as the State legislature and beyond, has been critical to the development and implementation of policies that have helped many of our farmers survive major challenges and succeed—whether they were caused by the weather, trade distortions, or the market.

Bob has had a remarkable career, and on behalf of the agriculture community and the fine citizens of North Carolina, I thank him for his dedicated service to the State and to the many farm families he has represented all these years. I wish him and his wife, Sylvia, the best as they move into their next chapter of life.

#### HYDE AMENDMENT

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the long-standing Hyde amendment. For nearly 45 years, the Hyde amendment has received support from Republicans and Democrats alike. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understood that no taxpayer money should be used to fund abortion. Every President since Jimmy Carter has signed the Hyde amendment into law, including President Obama.

As a Senator, President Biden was a strong supporter of the amendment. Yet, in his latest budget proposal, he removed Hyde protections that would enable taxpayer funding support for abortions, meaning that tax dollars taken from those who oppose it will now be used for just that. Regardless of where one stands on the issue, it is fundamentally wrong to take taxpayer dollars of someone who is opposed to abortion and use their hard-earned tax dollars to fund the same.

On the question of life itself, the Hyde amendment is credited with saving more than 2.4 million innocent lives from abortions since 1976. It is our moral obligation to fight for and protect the lives of those who cannot speak for themselves, the lives of those who are no different than our own.

I call on my colleagues to pass H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, to stand up for pro-life Americans, preserve the Hyde amendment, and ensure taxpayer dollars are not used to fund abortion.

#### PANDEMIC OF THE UNVACCINATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I have two unrelated topics that really got me going this morning.

The first is vaccinations. Over 40 percent of Americans are still not vaccinated. I mean, come on, what is going on? We need to wake up, America. We need to get vaccinated.

People are saying, "I want to live free or die." Well, people are living free and other people are dying. We need to get everyone vaccinated. Cases are rising every day. It is becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.

Madam Speaker, 97 percent of hospitalizations are unvaccinated; 99 percent of the COVID deaths are unvaccinated. We need to wake up.

There are people using social media poisoning the American people's minds and jeopardizing their health in the process. We need to work together to convince people that vaccinations are safe and that it makes sense to get vaccinated.

I want to applaud STEVE SCALISE and MITCH MCCONNELL for getting vaccinated and promoting it to the American people. We need everyone in this body to please do the same. You need to get vaccinated, not only for yourself, not only for your family, do it for other families, do it for the country, do it so the economy can stay strong.

Please, get vaccinated.

#### DACA PROGRAM

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, the second topic I would bring up is the Dreamers; the DACA program.

So many families are living every day with so much stress and anxiety because of their immigration status.

Last week, a Federal judge ruled that DACA must end, causing more anxiety and stress for these families. Congress should fix this. Give a pathway to legalization and citizenship, for Dreamers, for TPS recipients, and for the farm workers and other essential workers that make our country work. This is personal for me.

Madam Speaker, 100 years ago, August 22 of 1921, my father was born in a small medieval village on the mountains of Southern Italy. He immigrated to the United States as a young boy. He was the first kid from the neighborhood to go to college. He fought in World War II as a navigator on a B-24 and got the Distinguished Flying Cross. He came home and went to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill.

□ 1030

My father would always say, "What a country." He went on to live a great American success story. So, like I said, this is personal for me.

Twenty-seven years ago, I served as the young mayor of my hometown, the city of Glen Cove, New York. I addressed the growing issue of new immigrants from Central and South America who were gathering on street corners looking for work by creating the

first day-workers site anywhere on the East Coast of the United States of America in 1994.

I relied on a fundamental American principle: All men and women are created equal. It is not that all men and women with a passport are created equal, or all men and women with a green card are created equal. Every human being should be treated with human respect and dignity, and we have failed to address this problem for 30 years.

Those same men who gathered on the street corners 27 years ago now have their own businesses, own their own homes, and their children went to school with my children.

One Dreamer graduated high school with my daughter, went on to graduate from college with a degree in biomedical engineering, got a master's degree in biomedical engineering, and is now pursuing a doctorate in the same subject. But, now, he is suffering every day, worrying about his immigration status, worried about how this court ruling will affect him and his family.

Dreamers have been shaken yet again. Let's fix this. Let's do it. Dreamers are ready to live the same American success story that my father lived.

Let's give Dreamers, TPS recipients, farmworkers, and other essential workers a path to citizenship, and let's do it now.

#### STANDING WITH PEOPLE OF CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Cuban people and in opposition to communism.

In the last week, we have seen thousands of people in Cuba rise up in protest against the decades-long communist regime that has oppressed millions.

Since these protests began, more than 100 people have been detained by the communist government or have been reported missing. In response to these protests, the government has shut down communications, turning off internet service to their own people.

When I see what is happening in Cuba, I am reminded again why America is the greatest country on Earth. In our country, a first-generation Korean American can build an American Dream here and become a Congresswoman. In our country, we respect and value our freedom of speech and expression.

My parents fled North Korea and the country's communist rule. My family knows what it was like to have to wait in line for basic necessities. That is not how people deserve to live, and that is how the people of Cuba are forced to live every day under communist rule.

We should stand with the people of Cuba. I stand with those fighting for freedom, justice, and democracy.

ENFORCE IMMIGRATION LAWS

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the crisis on our

southern border. As an immigrant to this country, I strongly support legal immigration and a system that is grounded in the rule of law.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. They add to the rich fabric of our country. However, we are also a nation of laws. The crisis on our southern border is not law and order.

As a Representative from California, a border State, I often hear from my constituents about their concerns with the chaos at our border created by the Biden administration's policies. The security of our borders and enforcement of our immigration laws are vital to the safety and security of our Nation.

We must contain this crisis and make it clear to the people that to come to America, you must do it legally.

#### REIMBURSE NATIONAL GUARD IMMEDIATELY FOR CAPITOL RESPONSE MISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. KAHELE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KAHELE. Madam Speaker, "Always Ready. Always There." That is the motto of our National Guard, our citizen soldiers, who, since 1636, have been prepared at all times as the first line of defense for our country.

When a natural disaster strikes—hurricanes, wildfires, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When a human-made disaster strikes—chemical spills, large-scale electrical power outages—who do we call? We call the National Guard.

When States and local governments get overwhelmed because of situations beyond their control, who do those Governors, mayors, and State legislatures call? They call the National Guard.

When a global health pandemic cripples the country, who do we call? We call the National Guard.

And when an assault on our Nation's Capitol, a deadly insurrection, happens, who do we call to protect this hallowed beacon of democracy, to ensure a safe, peaceful transfer of power can occur? We called the National Guard.

Every single time—"Always Ready. Always There"—the National Guard has answered the call. Our National Guard keeps us safe and has done so since the inception of our democracy.

Following the deadly January 6 insurrection and leading up to the inauguration of our President and Vice President on January 20, Congress called upon the National Guard, and an unprecedented 26,700 guardsmen from across the country were deployed to secure our Nation's Capitol and protect the very lawmakers and staff that work in this Capitol.

The Guard then continued to serve and support civil authorities in Washington, D.C., for the next 137 days. They left their families. Many took un-

expected leave from their civilian jobs during a health pandemic to report to our Nation's Capitol. They stood watch 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, many times in the frigid cold in the dark of night.

Many of us got to know them personally. We brought them food, coffee. We met them on the ramp at Andrews Air Force Base. We took pictures on the Capitol steps. We shook their hands and thanked them and their families for their service.

Our National Guard fulfilled their duty bravely and completed their mission. Now, it is Congress' turn to not only pay our respects but pay the bill that is due. What bill? What am I talking about? Well, it cost \$521 million to protect our Nation's Capitol for those 137 days.

National Guard leadership, adjutant generals, and State Governors sent their guardsmen to our Nation's Capitol with the promise that those funds would be repaid in a timely manner. As a result, the Army and Air National Guard paid for the Capitol Response mission and fronted the money from their own fiscal year 2021 funding. Time is of the essence, and we must pay them the money that we owe immediately and before August 1.

The reality is, if we fail to issue reimbursements by August 1, there will be real consequences. The National Guard Bureau has already sent out notices to States regarding canceling the remaining annual training days and/or canceling August and September drills. If training is canceled, several thousand guardsmen will not have enough service time this fiscal year to receive credit for a good year toward military retirement.

Approximately 2,000 functional and occupational training schools will be canceled, affecting their readiness, pay, and career progression. Ground vehicle and rotary wing operations and maintenance will be halted. Air National Guard flying operations will be negatively impacted, as they just only now begin the recovery from the effects of the pandemic. The 54th Security Forces Assistance Brigade combat training center rotation next month, in August, will be canceled.

Without reimbursement by August 1, it will take years to recover our readiness, which will be immediately impacted and decrease by up to 20 percent.

Those are some of the operational and readiness impacts of not meeting that August 1 deadline. But the real damages, Madam Speaker, are the profound personal impacts, which will have an immediate effect on the morale of those soldiers and airmen, their families, and retention across the 54 States and territories.

The increased psychological stress on our National Guard servicemembers and families in an already highly stressed environment is absolutely unacceptable. They are being asked to suffer, to sacrifice, because this body,